

To Gen.
DTP-0277
05-0187-68

28 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Survival and Detention Training
for Vietnam Personnel

1. With very few exceptions, all personnel going PCS to Vietnam take either the SVNOC conducted by Mr. [REDACTED] or the triad of courses - the Vietnam Area Course (VAC), the Vietnam Station Orientation (VSO), and the Vietnam Paramilitary Orientation (VPO) - for which I have some responsibility. The exceptions are some "high-level" personnel who get their orientation in their own fashion and the occasional people who for some unusual reason, personal or official, are transferred or hurried to Saigon without benefit of either of these programs.

2. Both programs offer training in "enduring enemy detention" and "escape and survival."

A. The SVNOC offers three hours of endurance of detention, two hours of survival techniques, and two hours on personal security.

B. In the week-long VSO there is one hour on personal health, and this includes 15 minutes on detention; the subject of personal security is treated informally in panel discussions with returnees on living and working conditions in Vietnam. For the men taking the VPO - and whether they take it depends on prior PM training and experience - there is a two-hour lecture on escape and survival.

3. As an historical footnote, be it remarked that the VSO at one time did feature a two-hour lecture, and an excellent lecture it was by [REDACTED] OMS/AE, on enduring enemy detention; but this was dropped from the course because it was felt by FE/[REDACTED] officials that this subject was not needed by personnel going to Saigon as opposed to those going up-country.